

SENATE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 30-85 through 30-88 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the  
2 Joint Commission on Technology and Science.

3 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

4 **1. That §§ 30-85 through 30-88 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as**  
5 **follows:**

6 § 30-85. Commission established; powers and duties.

7 The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (~~the "Commission"~~ JCOTS) is hereby  
8 established as a permanent legislative agency of the Commonwealth. ~~The Commission~~  
9 JCOTS shall generally study all aspects of technology and science and endeavor to stimulate,  
10 encourage, promote, and assist in the development of technology and science in the  
11 Commonwealth and sound public policies related thereto. In addition, ~~the Commission~~ JCOTS  
12 shall:

13 1. Evaluate the impact of existing statutes and proposed legislation related to  
14 technology and science in the Commonwealth;

15 2. Advise the General Assembly, Governor, and agencies, authorities, and institutions of  
16 the Commonwealth upon matters related to technology and science;

17 3. Investigate, research, and consider such issues related to technology and science as  
18 may be requested by the General Assembly or determined by ~~the Commission~~ JCOTS;

19 4. Make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor;

20 5. Consult with appropriate entities, public or private, on matters related to technology  
21 and science under ~~the Commission's~~ JCOTS' consideration;

22 6. Encourage research and development in technology and science;

23 7. Solicit input from appropriate entities, public or private, on issues related to  
24 technology and science;

25 8. Coordinate its efforts with and assist the efforts of other agencies, authorities, and  
26 institutions of the Commonwealth;

27 9. Accept private or public funds to carry out its purposes; and

28 10. Annually report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the  
29 Governor by June 30. JCOTS shall make such further interim reports to the General Assembly  
30 and the Governor as it deems advisable or as required by concurrent resolution of the General  
31 Assembly or by the Governor. The chairman of JCOTS shall submit to the General Assembly  
32 and the Governor an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of JCOTS no  
33 later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive  
34 summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative  
35 Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be  
36 posted on the General Assembly's website.

37 § 30-86. Membership; terms; vacancies; chairman and vice chairman; expenses.

38 A. ~~The Commission~~ JCOTS shall be composed of ~~twelve~~ 12 members, seven of whom  
39 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates from the membership thereof, in  
40 accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the  
41 House of Delegates, and five of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on  
42 ~~Privileges and Elections~~ Rules from the membership of the Senate. ~~Six members shall~~  
43 ~~constitute a quorum.~~

44 B. Members shall serve for terms coincident with their terms of office. Members may be  
45 reappointed for successive terms. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of term shall  
46 be filled for the unexpired term. ~~Whenever any legislative member fails to retain his~~  
47 ~~membership in the house from which he was appointed, he shall relinquish his membership on~~  
48 ~~the Commission and the appointing authority who appointed such member shall make an~~  
49 ~~appointment from his respective house to complete the term. Any member may be reappointed~~  
50 ~~for successive terms. From among its membership, the Commission shall annually elect a~~

~~chairman and a vice chairman.~~ Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

C. ~~Commission~~ JCOTS members shall receive compensation as provided in § 30-19.12 and shall be reimbursed from funds appropriated or otherwise available to ~~the Commission~~ JCOTS for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.

D. Five members of JCOTS shall constitute a quorum. At the first meeting following the Reconvened Session of the Regular Session in an even-numbered year, JCOTS shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership. A vacancy in either office shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner. Meetings of JCOTS shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever members constituting a quorum so request.

E. No recommendation of JCOTS shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to JCOTS (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of JCOTS.

§ 30-87. Staff; cooperation and assistance.

~~Staff assistance shall be provided to the Commission by the~~ The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support to JCOTS. All agencies, authorities, and institutions of the Commonwealth shall cooperate and provide ~~such~~ assistance to ~~the Commission as the Commission may JCOTS upon~~ request.

§ 30-88. Advisory committees.

~~The Commission~~ JCOTS may establish advisory committees composed of persons with expertise in the matters under consideration by ~~the Commission~~ JCOTS. Such persons shall serve without compensation, but shall be ~~entitled to be~~ reimbursed from funds appropriated or otherwise available to ~~the Commission~~ JCOTS for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825, unless they waive reimbursement. JCOTS shall have the authority to establish rules and procedures under which the advisory committees shall operate.

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